# 2022 Victorian State Election

## Young Voices Day

## Friday 7 October 2022

### Key Information

###### About the Event

Youth Affairs Council Victoria (YACVic) encourages candidates for the 2022 Victorian State Election to recognise that **young people are a unique and important demographic** in your constituencies.

As you plan your election campaigns and engage with voters in your constituencies, please commit some time to hearing **young people’s specific concerns and ideas**.

To help you do this, YACVic has declared **Friday 7 October** as Young Voices Day, when every candidate for the election can **dedicate time to meeting and engaging with young people** aged 12-25. It will be a great opportunity to show your young constituents that you care about their wellbeing and opportunities, and hear their suggestions for how you can support their futures.

You may choose to take meetings with small groups of young people, or arrange a community forum in partnership with local youth-focused organisation, visit a couple of local schools, or have a presence in a public space where young people can approach you. You may do a mix of these things. It is up to you how you choose to **leverage Young Voices Day as part of your campaign strategy**.

###### YACVic Support

We will **promote the day to young people** across the state, encouraging them to make contact with their local candidates, so they can meet with you and share their perspectives.

As candidates register to be part of Young Voices Day, we will **promote your participation** across our network of young people and youth organisations, and via our youth-focused social media channels. This will include links to your campaign website so they can find you and see what you are planning for that day.

We will run **training for young people** to help them understand how to seek a meeting, and how to make it a positive and constructive experience for everyone.

We are also happy to provide **tips to candidates** on how to engage most effectively with young people, and ensure that your meetings and events are accessible.

### FAQ re Young Voices Day

###### Where do I find young people to engage with?

Put messages out through your **social media** to let young people know you are participating in Young Voices Day, and make it clear that you are keen to meet with them and hear about their concerns and ideas. Make sure to use platforms that young people use, like Instagram.

Dedicate some time at your campaign/electorate office to **take meetings** with young people.

Contact **youth-focused organisations** **and schools** in your electorate, and ask if you can come and hear from them and their young people about their concerns and ideas for a better community and state.

Set up a presence at a **local gathering place** (eg shopping centre) and make it clear that you are listening to young people on that day.

###### What if no young people want to engage with me?

Young people are **important constituents** like any other demographic. Be proactive about reaching out to young people in your electorate in a variety of ways.

###### How can I make it a positive experience for the young people?

Ask (ahead of the meeting) if the young people have any **access** needs, and then accommodate those to the best of your ability.

**Listen** to the young people, and ask questions. Don’t be defensive or dismissive, or explain how you believe your party’s policies have already addressed their concerns.

**Be respectful**, and show you are committed to an inclusive and safe space for your engagement. This includes acknowledging Country, sharing your pronouns, using plain language, and being fully present as you talk with the young people.

### About (YACVic)

YACVic is the **peak body and leading policy advocate** for young people and the youth sector in Victoria.

Our **vision** is that the rights of young people in Victoria are respected, and they are active, visible and valued in their communities. Our **mission** is to propel action that inspires positive change for young people and the youth sector.

YACVic is an **independent, not-for-profit organisation** with core funding from the Victorian Government’s Office for Youth. We pursue social justice by maintaining a focus on those young people in our community who face disadvantage or marginalisation.

You can find out more on our [website](https://www.yacvic.org.au/about-us/about-yacvic/).